

I'm outraged that Sinclair Broadcasting can force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. It's ironic that so much conservative propaganda champions the rights of local communities to determine their own values; here I think we see just how committed the right is to their publicly professed views.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter. It's no accident that Sinclair supports the current administration, which is also committed to undermining pluralism by deregulating various industries. "You scratch my back, I'll scratch yours," and the public and its interest is essentially locked out of this cozy little relationship.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. And they show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.